

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE
LIFE OF RALPH CALCATERRA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, 2011, surrounded by his family, my friend Ralph Calcaterra of Atherton, California, passed away. He leaves his wife Ferne, two children, Melissa Freeman and Richard Calcaterra, and three grandchildren.

For almost forty years, my family was blessed with the friendship of Ralph Calcaterra.

He made us laugh across the decades and generations.

He rode his bike to our house on Saturdays for almost twenty years—smiling and calling out, “anybody home?” and “what’s going on?”

We learned more about Iron Mountain, Michigan, and Las Vegas, than anybody else in Atherton.

We saw how much a man can love his wife, his children, and his grandchildren.

We learned the latest prices of real estate in Atherton—including who had bought what, and at what price.

Most of all, we saw close up and personal, what loyal friendship was. Ralph embodied it.

Today, heaven is a better place. Saints and sinners alike are laughing and learning as we did because Ralph is there.

Thank you Ralph, for being our loving, smiling and loyal friend.

You enriched our lives just by being wonderful you, and we are already missing you.

Happy bike riding across heaven, and know we will love you across eternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our condolences to the family of Ralph Calcaterra, a proud citizen and a true patriot of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 495 on July 6, 2011, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

THE AVIATION HALL OF FAME

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, the Aviation Hall of Fame was established in Dayton, Ohio, on October 5, 1961, with five Daytonians as its founding fathers.

The founders of the Hall of Fame were tasked with preserving the history of aviation heroes, fostering a better appreciation of the origins and growth of aviation and cataloging the role aviation has played in changing the economic, social and scientific trajectory of our nation.

Through the tireless efforts of its founders in establishing the Hall of Fame, aviation pioneers and achievers have been suitably honored for the last half-century.

Located within the NMUSAF with over 200 inductees, the Hall will induct 4 new honorees this month.

From pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright of Ohio, to astronauts, such as Neil Armstrong, pilots, such as Charles Lindberg and Amelia Earhart, inventors, such as Alexander Graham Bell, and entrepreneurs, such as William Boeing, among countless others whose contributions to aviation have made the U.S. aerospace industry the most advanced in the world.

Since 1981 the Hall of Fame has annually bestowed its prestigious “Spirit of Flight” Award upon a group or organization in recognition of its achievement in advancing aviation. The 2011 Milton Caniff “Spirit of Flight” Award recipient will be the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team, in recognition of the group’s 65-year history of serving as positive role models and goodwill ambassadors for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. More than 460 million fans have witnessed the teams’ spectacularly choreographed aerial performances since the group was formed in 1946.

The Hall of Fame Learning Center exhibit hall features interactive exhibits and displays serving nearly one million learners of all ages a year. Visitors can experience landing an aircraft on a Navy carrier, controlling the movement of a helicopter, docking in space with the Hubble Space Telescope, and taking the controls of an historic aircraft on one of four flight simulators.

On behalf of all the Americans who have been inspired by the history of flight and the accomplishments of our aviation pioneers, I congratulate the Aviation Hall of Fame, its board of trustees, and dedicated staff on their many accomplishments.

This month marks the Hall of Fame’s fiftieth enshrinement ceremony, celebrating an historic milestone in the integral role it has served in honoring pioneers of aviation.

I join Ohioans and fans of aviation everywhere to recognize those founders and the National Aviation Hall of Fame: James W. Jacobs, Gregory C. Karas, John A. Lombard, Larry E. O’Neil, and Gerald E. Weller.

Their vision, leadership, and dedication have helped to preserve the rich history of aviation for all Americans over the past fifty years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 25, I was delayed in leaving the Medal of Honor Recognition Ceremony for Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta and was unable to reach the floor to cast my vote before the vote was closed.

Had I been present, I would have voted, “yes”.

HONORING THEOLA MARIE
STARKS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, Theola Marie Starks was born on June 2nd, 1928 in Grant, Oklahoma, the fourth of ten children of Reverend John B. and Marie C. Dawson. She and her husband, Burnes O. (Chief) Starks, Sr., moved to Phoenix in 1949 and started a family with the first of their ten children, Burnes O. (Burney) Starks, Jr. Mr. Starks was a chemist and soil tester for Arizona Testing Laboratories, and both Mr. and Mrs. Starks supplemented their income by picking cotton across the state.

The family moved to Tucson in 1966 and continued to raise their ten children on the south side of town in the Western Hills and Las Vistas neighborhoods. Mrs. Starks was very involved in community service, working as a teacher’s aide and volunteering at a number of schools including Utterback, Cavett and Townsend. She always made friends easily and turned them into family. She believed in the Village raising children—she felt strongly that “your kids are mine and mine are yours.”

Mrs. Starks also frequently volunteered with respected neighborhood matriarch Mrs. Tommie Thomas. Even though she only had a tenth grade education, she made sure her children understood the value and importance of education, integrity and hard work. All ten children—Burnes O., Gary E., Daryl D., Terry L., Charles G., Donna R., Harry J., Jacqueline B., Larry D., and Timothy B.—finished high school and entered college. Seven of the ten children earned college degrees.

Dr. Kevin Leman, noted psychologist and birth order doctor, has often commented on this woman and the remarkable way she raised ten children. Beyond her immediate family, nearly 100 children knew her as “mom” or “grandma.”

Theola Starks’ life was defined by miracles, as those who know her can testify, but the greatest miracle was her—the ability to smile, touch, befriend, forgive, mother and love anyone who came into her life. She was the ultimate prayer warrior. Today, we mark her passing and commend her as a role model and a wonderful person.

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF
ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I will vote yes on this resolution because I oppose a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood in the U.N.

We all know the status quo in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank is unsustainable. It’s bad for Israelis, it’s bad for Palestinians, and it’s bad for the United States.

I believe that a negotiated agreement between both the Israelis and Palestinians is the